

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE DRAWINGS

Figure 7 has been amended to be labeled as "PRIOR ART" as required by the Examiner. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the features of the connecting terminal of the present invention whereby the connecting portion is formed in a rectangular tube having a top plate to which a locking lancer provided in a housing is engaged when the connecting terminal is arranged in the housing, and whereby the stabilizer portion stabilizes a posture of the connecting terminal within the housing and is provided on a bottom plate of the connecting portion to extend in a longitudinal direction and engages with a recess provided at a bottom portion of the housing when the connecting terminal is arranged in the housing. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the stabilizer portion is curved downwardly in a

semicircular shape from one portion of the bottom plate such that a free end of the stabilizer portion is brought into contact with another portion of the bottom plate. See, for example, Fig. 2 of the present application, wherein the stabilizer portion 17 clearly has a semicircular shape and extends from the side plate 16 below the bottom plate 13, curves upward and has a free end that comes into contact with the bottom plate 13. See also paragraph 0027 of the published application.

In addition, claims 4, 7 and 8 have been amended to better accord with amended independent claim 1.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-4, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,190,477 ("Akeda"); claims 5 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Akeda in view of Admitted Prior Art; and claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Akeda in view of USP 6,338,638 ("Kodama"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, the connecting terminal comprises a connecting portion formed in a rectangular tube having a top plate to which a locking lancer provided in a housing is engaged when the connecting terminal is arranged in the housing, and a stabilizer portion for stabilizing a posture of the connecting terminal within the housing. As recited in amended independent claim 1, the stabilizer portion is provided on a bottom plate of the connecting portion to extend in a longitudinal direction and engages with a recess provided at a bottom portion of the housing when the connecting terminal is arranged in the housing. In addition, as recited in amended independent claim 1, the stabilizer portion is curved downwardly in a semicircular shape from one portion of the bottom plate such that a free end of the stabilizer portion is brought into contact with another portion of the bottom plate.

Significantly, according to the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, the stabilizer portion 17 is arranged to extend below the bottom plate 13, which is opposite to a top plate 15 which engages with a locking lancer 33 of the housing to which the connecting terminal is engaged (see Fig. 6). The stabilizer portion 17 thus engages with a recess provided at the bottom portion of the

housing, opposite the locking lancer at the top portion of the housing (see paragraph 0032 of the published application, and Fig. 6). The stabilizer portion 17 is therefore effective to stabilize the posture of the connecting terminal and, at the same time, to prevent reverse insertion of the connecting terminal, while also not interfering with the engagement of the connecting terminal with the locking lancer.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art references cited by the Examiner do not disclose, teach or suggest a connecting terminal having the above described features of the claimed present invention.

Akeda shows a reverse insertion preventing projection 6 which extends from a side wall of the connecting terminal. In contrast to the present claimed invention, the projection 6 in Akeda is flat and does not curve downwardly in a semicircular shape from the bottom plate.

In the Admitted Prior Art, moreover, it is respectfully pointed out that the stabilizer portion 3 prevents a swinging motion of the connecting terminal 1 within the housing, and is arranged on the top plate of the connecting terminal (i.e., the plate which engages the locking lancer when the connecting terminal is arranged in the housing).

Still further, it is respectfully submitted that Kodama does not disclose a stabilizer portion on a bottom plate of a connecting terminal.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Akeda, the Admitted Prior Art and Kodama all fail to disclose, teach or suggest a stabilizer portion on a bottom plate of a connecting portion, which bottom plate is opposite a top plate which engages a locking lancer on a housing when the connecting terminal is arranged in the housing, and which stabilizer portion engages with a recess in the bottom portion of the housing opposite the locking lancer, as according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that it would not have been obvious to modify the cited prior art to provide a semicircular stabilizer portion on the bottom plate of a connecting terminal because the projection in Akeda does not serve a stabilizing function but rather serves a reverse insertion preventing function. Thus, Akeda cannot teach anything with respect to locating a stabilizer portion of a connecting terminal. In addition, the Admitted Prior Art does not teach anything about using a semicircular stabilizer portion to enter into a recess in a housing opposite a locking lancer to provide the connecting terminal with engagement to the housing on two,

opposite sides. Rather, the Admitted Prior Art shows the stabilizer portion on the same side as the portion of the connecting terminal which engages with the locking lancer and thus provides stabilization support for the connecting terminal on only one side.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 and claims 2-4 and 6-8 depending therefrom clearly patentably distinguishes over Akeda, taken singly or in combination with the Admitted Prior Art and Kodama, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

* * * * *

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
220 Fifth Avenue - 16th Floor
New York, New York 10001-7708
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
DH:iv:rjl